

## PACWASTE COUNTRY PROFILE

## NAURU

PacWaste is a four year project (2014–2017) funded by the European Union and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific in the priority areas of healthcare waste, asbestos waste, E-waste and integrated atoll waste management.

A further priority for PacWaste is to foster links between Pacific island countries and encourage information sharing on sustainable waste management through regional collaboration and twinning arrangements.

Nauru is one of 15 countries participating in PacWaste, with activities taking place in the project domains of healthcare waste and asbestos.

### Healthcare waste

PacWaste is working across 14 Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste to improve the management of healthcare waste. Healthcare waste is hazardous because it has the potential to be infectious or harmful to humans and the environment.

In Nauru, PacWaste conducted a healthcare waste management baseline survey in April 2014, through which information was collected on current waste management processes at the country's only hospital – Republic of Nauru Hospital.

The survey report identified the need for improved storage, treatment and disposal solutions for healthcare waste at the hospital. The survey noted that the hospital does not have an operational incinerator for the proper disposal of healthcare waste. As a result, healthcare waste is transported to the landfill and burned in an open pit.

To address these problems, PacWaste has procured a new, high temperature incinerator for the hospital and will provide much needed equipment and healthcare waste management training for staff. This will include the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage and secure storage systems for different waste types.

### Asbestos

PacWaste is working across 13 Pacific countries to address the issue of asbestos – a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that was once commonly used in building materials and other consumer items. Asbestos is now banned from most modern products as it has been found to be a major threat to human health.

In Nauru, PacWaste conducted a baseline survey in 2014 to determine the prevalence of asbestos, ascertain risks associated with the materials and identify best practice options for cost-effective and sustainable interventions.

The survey confirmed that there is a substantial quantity of asbestos in Nauru – estimated to be around 212,000m<sup>2</sup>. Most of the asbestos is in the form of asbestos-cement in roofing and cladding on houses and buildings although there are also some stockpiles of waste and unused asbestos building material.

To help address the threat of asbestos in Nauru, PacWaste will be arranging for the removal, secure transport and safe disposal of more than 4,000m<sup>2</sup> of asbestos from five locations across the island. Nauru will also be targeted in a regional public awareness campaign about asbestos risk and the steps that can be taken to minimise exposure.

### E-waste

The rapidly increasing use of electrical and electronic equipment in the Pacific is resulting in increased volume of E-waste. Dumped E-waste can release harmful contaminants into the environment such as lead, cadmium and dioxins. The good news is that many end of life electronic items contain recoverable and valuable components such as copper, steel and gold.

Regionally, PacWaste is collecting information about current E-waste management and stockpiles across nine Pacific island countries to assist in the improved management of E-waste in the Pacific.

While Nauru is not participating in the E-waste component of the project at this time, assistance will be provided in developing a national E-waste strategy. PacWaste will also assist, where possible, in linking Nauru to a regional recycler's network.

## PacWaste Actions and Impact: Nauru

ACTION	LOCATION	IMPACT
<b>Healthcare waste</b>		
Healthcare waste baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Republic of Nauru Hospital</li> </ul>	Baseline data on the current status of healthcare waste management is publically available.
Provision and installation of a high temperature healthcare waste incinerator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Republic of Nauru Hospital</li> </ul>	Healthcare facilities have increased capacity for the proper disposal of healthcare waste.
Incinerator operator training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Republic of Nauru Hospital</li> </ul>	Incinerator operators have the necessary skills to operate and maintain equipment.
Healthcare waste management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Republic of Nauru Hospital</li> </ul>	Healthcare facilities can effectively and safely handle their waste from point of creation through to disposal.
Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage and secure storage systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Republic of Nauru Hospital</li> </ul>	Healthcare facilities have improved storage facilities for healthcare waste and an integrated system of ensuring that wastes are clearly identified.
Assistance in developing a national healthcare waste strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	Healthcare waste management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
<b>Asbestos</b>		
Asbestos baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	Detailed information about the prevalence of asbestos is publically available.
Removal, transport and disposal of more than 4,000m <sup>2</sup> of asbestos materials from five locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nauru Power Station Building</li> <li>Nauru Prison</li> <li>Nauru Anetan Infant School</li> <li>Nauru Boe Infant School</li> <li>Nauru Nibok Infant School</li> </ul>	High risk asbestos is safely removed, reducing the risk of exposure to the general population.
Asbestos management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	Asbestos can be effectively and safely removed and disposed of in accordance with international best practice.
Asbestos awareness campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	Residents are aware of asbestos risks and the steps that can be taken to minimise exposure.
Assistance in developing a national asbestos strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	Asbestos management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
<b>E-waste</b>		
Assistance in developing a national E-waste strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	E-waste management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
<b>Information sharing, regional collaboration and twinning</b>		
Connection to a developing recycler's network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional</li> </ul>	Opportunities are opened up for recycling materials such as scrap steel, plastics, E-waste, and Used Lead Acid Batteries.
Provision of resources, guidance materials and participation in regional workshops and other events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional</li> </ul>	Relevant national personnel have an improved understanding of best practice solutions for solid and hazardous waste management in the Pacific.

### For more information

Detailed information about PacWaste activities in Nauru, including baseline survey reports, are available at: [www.sprep.org/pacwaste](http://www.sprep.org/pacwaste)